

REMARKS

Claims 3 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. In response, these claims have been amended to address the point noted in the Office Action.

Claims 2 - 14 and 16 - 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, fourth paragraph, as containing only non-functional descriptive material. Claims 1 - 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed towards a compilation and mere arrangement of data. In response, both of the independent claims 1 and 15 have been amended to specify that the database system is implemented on a computer and includes the functional element of a "query means" for retrieving data from tables in the database.

Claims 1 - 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by an August 2003 paper by Zhitao Su. In response, Applicant notes that the present application is based on and claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application 60/433,346, filed on December 13, 2002. In other words, the effective filing date of the present application predates the August 2003 paper by Zhitao Su.

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

DORR, CARSON & BIRNEY, P.C.

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By: Thomas S Birney
Thomas S. Birney #30,025
501 S. Cherry St., Suite 800
Denver, Colorado 80246
(303) 333-3010

Attorneys for Applicant